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CLAIMS

1.   A method for managing a plurality of nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network comprising:

accessing a subset of said nodes in response to a client request;

modifying one or more state attributes associated with said nodes to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchically database in response to said client request; and

managing said nodes using said state attributes.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be updated.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be deleted.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be added.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein said nodes are organized in a Document Object Model format.

6.   A manager for one or more nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network comprising:

a subset of said nodes configured to be accessed in response to a user request;

one or more state attributes associated with said nodes configured to be modified to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchically database in response to said client request when said subset is used; and

said manager configured to manage said nodes using said state attributes.

7.   The manager of claim 6 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be updated.

8.   The manager of claim 6 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be deleted.

9.   The manager of claim 6 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be added.

10.   The manager of claim 6 wherein said nodes are organized in a DOM format.

11.   A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to manage a plurality of nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to access a subset of said nodes in response to a client request;

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computer readable code configured to cause a computer to use said subset wherein one or more state attributes associated with said nodes configured to be modified to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchically database are modified in response to said client request; and

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to manage said nodes using said state attributes.

12.　　The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be updated.

13.　　The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be deleted.

14.　　The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be added.

15.　　The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said data nodes are organized in a DOM format.

16.　　An apparatus comprising:

a subset of one or more nodes in a layered hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network configured to be accessed in response to a client request;

one or more state attributes associated with said nodes configured to be modified to control merging and updating of layers to a resulting layered hierarchically database in response to said client request when said subset is used; and

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a manager configured to manage said nodes using said state attributes.

17.   The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be updated.

18.   The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be deleted.

19.   The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be added.

20.   The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said data nodes are organized in a DOM format.

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